

SEMI-CYLINDRICAL TYPE PARACHUTE

1. Field of the Invention:

[001] The present invention relates to the field of parachutes and, more particularly, to a novel type of parachute that will equal, or surpass, the performance characteristics of a conventional semi-spherical ballistic type parachute and, in some ways, controllably mimic the performance characteristics of a higher performance, parafoil type, gliding wing, parachute.

2. Description of the Prior Art

[002] In general terms, for personnel use, and for the aerial delivery of cargo, there are two types of parachutes in use today. One type is the semi-spherical ballistic, drag producing, parachute, commonly known in the trade as a round parachute, although it is typically constructed as a polygon. The other type is a ram-air inflatable wing, which is a lift producing, gliding parachute, commonly known in the trade as a parafoil or a square parachute, although it is generally rectangular or elliptical in plan form.

a. Ballistic Parachutes

[003] The semi-spherical ballistic, type parachute has been in use for many, many, decades and continues to be the most widely used parachute type, by a huge margin. Performance of this type of parachute is almost entirely dependent on drag because it has extremely little gliding or lift generating capability. In many instances, having no true gliding capability, drifting only where the wind carries it, is not only acceptable, it is quite desirable. For instance; during mass parachute deployments of military troops or equipment, the non-gliding feature of the semi-spherical ballistic, type parachutes allows these uncontrolled parachutes to generally maintain